

**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION****[Docket No.: ED-2021-SCC-0008]****Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission to the Office of Management and Budget for Review and approval; Comment Request; Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS 2023) Field Test Sampling and Recruitment****AGENCY:** Institute of Education Sciences (IES), Department of Education (ED).**ACTION:** Notice.**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, ED is proposing a revision of a currently approved information collection.**DATES:** Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before **[INSERT DATE 30 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER]**.**ADDRESSES:** Written comments and recommendations for proposed information collection requests should be sent within 30 days of publication of this notice to [www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain](https://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain). Find this information collection request by selecting “Department of Education” under “Currently Under Review,” then check “Only Show ICR for Public Comment” checkbox. Comments may also be sent to [ICDocketmgr@ed.gov](mailto:ICDocketmgr@ed.gov).**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For specific questions related to collection activities, please contact Carrie Clarady, 202-245-6347.**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Department of Education (ED), in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA) (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)), provides the general public and Federal agencies with an opportunity to comment on proposed, revised, and continuing collections of information. This helps the Department assess the impact of its information collection requirements and minimize the public’s reporting burden. It also helps the public understand the Department’s information collection requirements and provide the requested data in the desired format. ED is soliciting comments on the proposed information collection request (ICR) that is described below. The Department of Education is especially interested in public comment addressing the following issues: (1) is this collection necessary to the proper functions of the Department; (2) will this information be processed and used in a timely manner; (3) is the estimate of burden accurate; (4) how might the Department enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (5) how might the Department minimize the burden of this

collection on the respondents, including through the use of information technology. Please note that written comments received in response to this notice will be considered public records.

*Title of Collection:* Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS 2023) Field Test  
Sampling and Recruitment

*OMB Control Number:* 1850-0695

*Type of Review:* A revision of a currently approved information collection

*Respondents / Affected Public:* Individuals and Households

*Total Estimated Number of Annual Responses:* 3,199

*Total Estimated Number of Annual Burden Hours:* 1,040

*Abstract:* The Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS), conducted by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), within the U.S. Department of Education (ED), is an international assessment of fourth and eighth grade students' achievement in mathematics and science. Since its inception in 1995, TIMSS has continued to assess students every 4 years (1995, 1999, 2003, 2007, 2011, 2015, and 2019), with the next TIMSS assessment, TIMSS 2023, being the eighth iteration of the study. In TIMSS 2023, approximately 65 countries or education systems will participate. The United States will participate in TIMSS 2023 to continue to monitor the progress of its students compared to that of other nations and to provide data on factors that may influence student achievement.

TIMSS is led by the International Association for the Evaluation of Educational Achievement (IEA), an international collective of research organizations and government agencies that create the frameworks used to develop the assessment, the survey instruments, and the study timeline. IEA decides and agrees upon a common set of standards, procedures, and timelines for collecting and reporting data, all of which must be followed by all participating countries. As a result, TIMSS is able to provide a reliable and comparable measure of student skills in participating countries. In the U.S., NCES conducts this study in collaboration with the IEA and a number of contractors to ensure proper implementation of the study and adoption of practices in adherence to the IEA's standards. Participation in TIMSS is consistent with NCES's mandate of acquiring and disseminating data on educational activities and student achievement in the United States compared with foreign nations [The Educational Sciences Reform Act of 2002 (ESRA 2002, 20 U.S.C. §9543)].

TIMSS 2023 will be a computer-based assessment (referred to as "eTIMSS"), administered using the eTIMSS player via Chromebook tablets with attached keyboards. TIMSS 2023 builds on the work of TIMSS 2019, which primarily used an electronic assessment format but included a bridge study to examine

the effect of administering the assessment on tablet versus paper and establish the link to maintain trends.

TIMSS 2023 will be the second eTIMSS assessment in the United States.

Because TIMSS is a collaborative effort among many parties, the United States must adhere to the international schedule set forth by the IEA, including the availability of final field test and main study plans as well as draft and final questionnaires. In order to meet the international data collection schedule, to align with recruitment for other NCES studies (e.g., the National Assessment of Education Progress, NAEP), and for schools to put the TIMSS 2023 field test assessment on their Spring 2022 calendars, recruitment activities for the field test will begin in June of 2021. This package requests approval to conduct sampling and recruitment activities associated with the TIMSS 2023 field test, which will be conducted in March and April 2022. A separate 60-day package will be submitted in August 2021 to request approval for the field test data collection materials and the main study sampling and recruiting plan.

Dated: March 23, 2021.

**Stephanie Valentine,**

*PRA Coordinator,*

*Strategic Collections and Clearance*

*Governance and Strategy Division,*

*Office of Chief Data Officer,*

*Office of Planning, Evaluation and Policy Development.*

[FR Doc. 2021-06279 Filed: 3/25/2021 8:45 am; Publication Date: 3/26/2021]